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The New Tax Rate.

Under the terms of the new District appropriation bill, containing a provision that is designed to put the District on a "cash-payment basis" by the 1st of July, 1927, the Commissioners are required to change the mode of taxation. They must increase the assessment of realty from two-thirds of the real value to full valuation. They must then change the rate of taxation to yield, during the five succeeding fiscal years, a sufficient sum, in addition to meeting the current appropriations, to enable the District five years hence to meet requisitions under appropriation acts with cash, instead of relying upon the federal government for cash advances until its tax revenues are available.

In determining the rate that, applied to a full-valuation assessment, will yield such a sum, it is necessary for the Commissioners to take several factors into account. In the first place, by reason of a change in the law effected by the appropriation act, they can count upon the payment of approximately half of the year's taxes by the 1st of December. Thus within five months of the beginning of the new fiscal year there will be in hand a sum sufficient to meet the District's share of the appropriations for six months of the year. If the District is adjudged by the joint select committee just organized, and by Congress upon the presentation of its report in February next, to be entitled to all or a part of the surplus of about $5,000,000 of unappropriated District tax revenues now lying in the Treasury, that sum will be available as a cash asset, to serve as part of the cash-basis surplus. But the new rate must be determined in advance of any possible report from this committee and action upon it, to permit the levying of the semi-annual tax due in the month of November. Inasmuch as the amount that will be adjudged thus available as part of a cash-basis surplus is indeterminate at present, the Commissioners cannot take it into account now in fixing the rate for this year.

Their problem is to ascertain the rate at which full-valued District realty and tangible personalty will yield enough to supply this year's needs, plus five-twelfths of an extra year's needs divided into five annual installments. That would seem to entail roughly an increase in the yield by one-twelfth for each of the succeeding five years. But there are certain factors that complicate the problem. For instance, the advance of realty valuation to 100 per cent from 66 2-3, while tangible personalty remains as heretofore at 100, means that with a reduced tax rate tangible personalty will yield less in taxes than before, and realty must make good the difference. Moreover, there is no assurance that certain special taxes, such as upon the revenues of the public utility corporations, are by law collectible on the half-yearly basis. Again, with no provision in the new law for appeals from personal tax assessments, now appealable annually in February, ground may be laid for controversy over the payment of half of the tax without recourse to possible revision of the assessment.

It is reasonably assured that the District appropriations will increase during the next five fiscal years, so that it is impossible to estimate with accuracy the sum that by July 1, 1927, it will be necessary to have in hand as a cash-basis surplus sufficient to meet the Treasury requisitions from the beginning of the fiscal year with 60 cents of District money on each dollar of expenditure. The Commissioners, however, are not at present required, nor can they reasonably be expected, to take this prospective increase into account. They should, and doubtless will, accept the present District budget law as the basis for their calculations, figure upon getting half the taxes in November and then compute the rate which will yield enough over current requisitions to give them by the end of the fifth fiscal year in succession sufficient to meet the requisitions until the half-yearly taxes are paid in November. Any other calculation would be in excess of the requirements of the law.

Strike threats make July 1 even more prominent in the American calendar than July 4.

Liability for Disaster.

The proposition that has been advanced in Congress to pass a bill appropriating the sum of $2,000,000 for the relief of sufferers from the Knickerbocker Theater disaster raises an interesting question of responsibility. It is urged by the proponent of the measure that the burden of blame rests upon the government and the District for failure to conduct proper inspection of the building during its construction. Apart from any other consideration, it may be suggested that it would be altogether unfair to put upon the District any part of the financial liability, even though it be maintained that lack of adequate inspection caused or permitted the collapse of the building. For the District has at no time been responsible for the size of the inspection force or for the rate of pay for that force. Congress has determined the number of inspectors in the allocation of funds for the annual maintenance of the District government, and also has fixed the scale of pay. Had the matter been left to District initiative there would undoubtedly have been a larger and a better paid force, insuring more adequate inspection.

If in the judgment of Congress there is a liability for the deaths and the injuries inflicted in the collapse of the building, that liability should rest upon the United States alone. In this matter the inspection force of the District government is the agent of the government. The District of Columbia has no part in its organization, save in the selection of the individuals, and in that selection it is hampered by the scale of pay adopted in the appropriation bill.

But would it not be unwise, save as an act of charity—in which case the federal money alone should be used—to provide a fund for the relief of those who suffered from the dissater, however urgently the survivors and the families of the dead may need assistance? The building was a private one, not like the old Ford Theater on 10th street, the collapse of which caused the death of about a score and the injury of many others. In that case there was a direct liability on the part of the government for the failure of its own property and the fault of its direct agents in the remodeling of the building while occupied for public service. If financial responsibility for deaths or injuries that are caused by the collapse of privately owned buildings is to be assumed by the government or the District on the ground that inspection was faulty, a wide range of liability is opened.

President Harding's Warning.

President Harding's address yesterday to the mine owners and representatives of the miners was at once an appeal and a warning. He had chosen his words carefully to avoid all appearance of partisanship or any suggestion of coercion, but throughout his discourse there ran a steel thread of resolution and firm intent to use, if need be, the full powers of government to protect all the people against the disaster threatened them because of the selfishness of a few.

It was plain speaking, both to miners and mine owners, and he made it clear that he held neither of them to be blameless for the situation in which the country finds itself. Because they are engaged in an industry which is essential to the life of the people, he insisted that neither side is free to stand up for individual rights if by doing so they deprive the nation of the fuel without which it cannot exist. There must be yielding on both sides. He hoped they would find a way in common council for a composition of their differences. If they could not, the government was ready to take a hand. The government would act first as a mediator. "Failing in that," the President said, "the servants of the American people will be called to the task in the name of American safety and for the greatest good of all the people."

If the mine owners and miners are so blinded to their own best interests that they will not heed this grave and proper warning, and the government is called upon to act "in the name of American safety," an overwhelming majority of the American people will support the government to whatever end it may be necessary to go. And if it has not now the power to go to that necessary end the power will be given it.

Notable as was the President's address for the clarity with which it stressed the fact that the well-being of all the people must first be served, it was equally notable for the constructive program he outlined. He found that the basic fault with the mining industry was that it was overcapitalized, overdeveloped and overmanned, with the result that miners cannot have full-time work and, therefore, cannot live without a wage which is excessive compared with the value of their production. He proposed that a commission be appointed to survey the industry, with a view to remedying this fundamental fault, and that in the meantime the production of coal be resumed.

That is a proposal so obviously sensible and so eminently fair that its rejection by either the miners or the mine owners would leave them in a position so untenable that public opinion would support whatever measures might be found necessary to assure that coal will be produced.

The average citizen fails to see why the general public should suffer because the coal operators cannot get along amicably with their help.

There is no use trying to laugh the flapper out of existence. Her summer costume is apparently so comfortable that she claims the last laugh.

German monarchists are inconsiderate in refusing Wilhelm the privilege of saying nothing and sawing wood.

Ireland absolutely refuses England the privilege of regarding her as a quiet neighbor.

The Government as Tenant.

Friday at midnight the lease under which the government occupies a building in this city for one of its executive departments expired. A new lease has not been written for the reason that a dispute has arisen between the government and the owners of the property on the score of the rent to be paid. Congress has appropriated $75,000 for the coming year's rent, and the owners ask approximately $200,000.

This case cannot be taken before the rent commission for settlement. There is no body or board or court to settle it. The government remains as tenant and tenders the amount appropriated. The owners can take it or leave it. There is no process by which an ouster can be effected, as in the case of an obdurate private tenant. Yet it may be that in terms of realty values and reasonable yields the amount demanded by the owners is more nearly reasonable than the amount appropriated. Certainly the difference of $125,000 on the basis of a $75,000 rental paid is wide enough to suggest a field of compromise. But there is no chance of compromise. The appropriation has been made and the tenant remains.

All of this goes to the point of showing the unwisdom and unbusinesslike extravagance of continuing to house government offices in rented buildings. The United States should not be a tenant, but should own its own housing equipment. It should build for itself and not let others build for it. It should not be in the position of a preferred tenant, with power to name the rent and to remain in possession against the will of the owner.

The government has the power to commandeer any building that it occupies for public purposes by condemnation. It can in the present case condemn the building and use it as its own. In point of fact, the continued occupation of this building at a lower rate than the own r charges is in effect condemnation without going through the procedure prescribed by law. The government surely should not put itself in this attitude. The direct correction of such a fault lies through the provision of adequate government buildings under government ownership.

Bielaski's Abduction.

Suggestion that Bruce Bielaski framed his own kidnaping is advanced by newspapers at Mexico City, with a keen memory for the case of Jenkins, the former American consular agent at Puebla. But the Mexico City papers failed to recall that a thorough investigation of the Jenkins case exonerated him from any suspicion of a frame-up. Just so in the Bielaski case, there is nothing to indicate that the former Department of Justice official was not abducted by ransom-seeking bandits. There have been too many actual abductions beyond any possibility of suspicion to cause a doubt in this latest case. It is of no moment that the abduction was so clumsily managed. As to that, the fact is probably that an idea prevails in certain circles in Mexico that abduction means easy money, and everybody is trying it. It was remarked at the time of Bielaski's escape that the affair bore signs of having been conducted by amateurs, and Bielaski himself afterward so characterized the work of his captors. The only important matter in this connection is the promptness with which the Mexican newspapers advance the suggestion that the kidnaping was a fake. This shows an ill-disposition toward this country that has its sinister suggestion. A much more satisfactory attitude on the part of the press of the Mexican capital would be one of congratulation upon the escape of the captured man rather than the charge that he had for some undisclosed and unsuggested reason managed his own abduction.

Oles Out of Office.

Ex-Mayor George L. Oles of Youngstown, Ohio, just resigned in consequence of attacks upon him and his administration, is a disillusioned man. He ran for the office last fall as an independent, and was elected after a sensational campaign, in which he promised to do things for Youngstown which it urgently needed done. The people took him at his own valuation and put the reins in his hands. Now he throws them down disgusted, sick at heart, sore, saying that he has had only five expressions of thanks in six stormy months and more kicks than a man can conveniently count.

Oles and his friends say that he gave Youngstown good government. His enemies say that he was incompetent and even aver that he accepted graft. A petition for his removal had been sent to the governor. Perhaps Oles has quit while the quitting is good. Perhaps he just naturally thought that the game was not worth the candle. As a matter of fact, the troubles of office are so great that it would seem to be hardly worth while for any busy citizen to accept a place, especially such a sure-fire trouble place as mayor. A square man taking such a public job must be fired with an extraordinary ambition to render service to his fellow citizens regardless of cost and chagrin.

Chinese conservatism asserts itself in regarding an occasional revolution as an essential evidence of regard for national custom.

Lenin, apparently, does not permit ill health to interfere with his office hours.

Discussion arises as to whether the ocean itself shall be "wet" or "dry."

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Sublime and Ridiculous.

A wondrous sunset in the west
Caused transformations rare to flit.
As daylight splendor sank to rest.
Nobody seemed to notice it.

A flapper hurried down the beach
In garb which decorous lines forsook—
A bit too scanty in its reach—
And everybody had a look.

Graftology.

"Why are you opposed to a censorship of the movies?"

"I am afraid," answered Senator Sorghum, "that some of the censors might be susceptible to pecuniary persuasion. Varieties of graft are already sufficiently numerous, without introducing a photograft."

Jud Tunkins says people might be more careful about marriage if the minister got as big a fee as the divorce lawyer charges.

Hortense Magee.

Hortense has bought a new machine.
She looked as haughty as a queen
As she went speeding through the town
Till the speedometer fell down.
It was my duty as a cop,
To call on Miss Magee to stop.
She answered, as she made a bow,
"I'd like to, but I don't know how!"

Attire.

"Isn't that fig leaf raiment a bit scant?" inquired Adam.

"Humph!" rejoined Eve. "You ought to see me in my bathing suit!"

"Conscience has a still small voice," said Uncle Eben, "but old Satan uses a megaphone."

Politics at Home

The Color Line in Politics.

There is talk in Florida of reorganizing the republican party of the state on a basis exclusively white. The colored voter, or rather the colored man entitled under the federal Constitution to a vote, is to be excluded.

An experiment of this kind was tried in Virginia last year. The republicans of the Old Dominion made an appeal for support for a state ticket which had been nominated by a convention composed only of white men.

The experiment failed completely. The colored contingent of the party resented the movement by putting a state ticket of its own in the field, while those democrats for whom the white contingent was angling failed or refused to bite. The democratic ticket was elected by the largest majority ever recorded in a state contest.

The experiment in Florida will fail, and deserve to fail. The colored man was enfranchised by the republican party, and, wherever permitted to vote, has ever since supported republican candidates, state and national. In some states he has been, and still is, a material factor in republican calculations. He responds to party appeals, and votes straight.

That he is excluded from all political activity in other states is no fault of his. He is the victim of circumstances and prejudices over which he has no control.

Juggling in this fashion with the suffrage will yield nothing to the republicans who attempt it. If the southern states are to be converted to republicanism it must be through appeals based upon principles and policies, and not upon appeals recognizing prejudices which the democrats have established and fostered and from which derived a long list of local benefits. The Constitution forbids the drawing of the color line at the polls, and provides a penalty where the line is drawn.

An Unusual Boom.

The Ford boomers are not vocal these days, but busy sounding sentiment in a quiet way as to the boomee's chances.

Outsiders, however, are asking questions. Is Mr. Ford a republican? If so, what about Mr. Harding? As a rule, republicans, whether for or against the administration, or only languidly observing the situation, are slating the President for renomination.

If Mr. Ford's supporters have an independent nomination in view, what is the basis of their claim that Mr. Ford as a candidate would run particularly well in the south? The south—the lower south—is incontestably democratic. She withstood even the cyclone of 1920. Is there the slightest prospect of a commotion more violent than that in 1924? Is it possible to conceive as matters stand of a presidential candidate or platform other than democratic with the ghost of a show in the lower south two years hence?

Mr. Ford's position in politics is unique. He had not been thought of as a potential political leader until Woodrow Wilson, then President, suggested him for the Senate. And Mr. Wilson was a democrat, Mr. Ford a republican, and Michigan a republican state.

Still, the suggestion, odd as it was, caught on, and some men, rated as practical politicians, became Ford boomers. They were republicans, and realized that, elected to the Senate in such circumstances, Mr. Ford would necessarily be a Wilson man, and not a representative of republican policies.

Mr. Ford, however, missed the Senate, as he is likely to miss the presidency. His position, strong in the business world, is too indefinite in the political world to make his name one of potency to conjure with there.

The Disgruntled.

The new party, according to its projectors, is to be composed of former republicans and former democrats in about equal numbers—voters who have tired of their old affiliations through a feeling that a new party is due and should be made as strong as possible.

Look, they exclaim, at the present situation! The republicans, though in power by a landslide, are not redeeming their promises. They are not affording the relief the country needs.

The democrats have no remedies—at any rate, are offering none. Beyond criticizing the opposition they seem unable to go. They are vigorous kickers, but not constructors.

So a new party, it is asserted, is necessary to satisfy both discontented republicans and discontented democrats, who, under the pressure of disappointment, will be able to get together on a platform and run things.

This calls for a national ticket drawn from the two old parties. Shall it be a disgruntled republican for first place and a disgruntled democrat for second, or the other way around? If a republican for first place, shall he be taken from east, or west, or middle country? If a democrat, shall the south, as usual, be barred?

The speculation grows apace. Names are being suggested, and certain actions of certain men are referred to as evidence that those men are taking notice and consenting to the new party plans—are, indeed, counseling on the quiet and under cover as to how best to promote such a break-up of the two old parties as will supply the material for a new and compelling organization of national consequence two years hence.

The theory of evolution is fascinating to the imagination. Whether it is correct or not makes little difference in practical affairs. The idea that man is evolved from lower animal life is less important than consideration of the process of nature which often develops a demagogue into a responsible statesman.

The Mexican bandits dealt an insidious blow by appraising Mr. Bruce Bielaski at so low a figure as $5,000.

In the course of time the Fourth of July oratory will become as safe and sane as the fireworks.

Reflections Caused by Observing Ceremony in House of Lords

BY THOMAS R. MARSHALL,
Former Vice President of the United States.

LONDON, June 24.

Witnessing the introduction of a newly created peer into the house of lords, I had opportunity to contrast the ceremony with the simple induction of a United States senator into office. The American Senate has often been referred to, every one knows, as the counterpart of the British house of lords, with the outstanding difference that membership in the one is restricted by terms, while in the other life tenure prevails.

The induction of a new senator is entirely devoid of formality. His credentials, signed by the governor of his state, are read by a clerk. He is escorted by his colleague to the left of the presiding officer, who administers the oath, whereupon he takes his seat as a full-fledged member. He does not even kiss the sacred volume which contains the only guaranty of the sincerity of his oath.

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Far different is the ceremony by which a newly created peer is received into the house of lords. But first a word about the setting. The chamber itself reflects an atmosphere of venerable tradition. The lord chancellor of Great Britain presides. At one end of the chamber is the historic woolsack, or seat of equity, which is occupied by the lord chancellor in the trial of causes, but which he leaves when he speaks upon a legislative question in order to maintain the distinction between legislative and judicial authority. Theoretically, the woolsack, or seat of justice, is not in the legislative chamber.

The lord chancellor was seated upon the woolsack when I made my visit. In an adjacent room were assembled the earl marshal, the lord great chamberlain, who was attended by the garter king of arms; the newly created peer and two peers of his own degree. Soon they entered the chamber in dignified procession, headed by the usher of the Black Rod and the earl marshal with his baton. The garter king of arms carried the newly created peer's patent. The peer, himself, bore his writ of summons.

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I may pause to explain that a newly created peer receives from the king not only a patent to his peerage, or a commission, but also a writ of summons to appear in the house of lords and discharge his duties. It was because Lady Rhondda had no writ of summons that she was denied admission to the house of lords when she appeared with her patent to nobility.

The procession, each member bowing at the entrance to the chamber, advanced down one side, where the lords temporal were seated. Midway a second bow was made, and then a third at the woolsack, where the garter king of arms delivered to the new peer his patent. The peer, kneeling, presented it and his writ of summons to the lord high chancellor. Rising, he retired to the temporal side of the house with his two supporters while his patent and writ were being read.

The oath was administered. The newly created peer was seated. Thrice he arose with his supporters and bowed to the lord chancellor, who returned the salutation without rising. Then he was escorted to the woolsack, where the lord chancellor shook hands with him. Thus he became for the rest of his life a member of the house of lords.

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I know myself to be a democrat, wholly divested of any love for the trappings that surround royalty, but I must confess that it was an impressive ceremonial. As it proceeded I found myself wondering whether or no there might be too much democratic simplicity in the formal affairs of government. This was not a wholly new thought to me. I often had pondered whether the Protestant forefathers, in fleeing from what they thought were the superstitions of the Roman Catholic Church, had not carried their reforms too far. They made the services of the church cold, dull, uninteresting. I can remember far enough back in my own life when music was forbidden in the church, when members of my family believed it distinctly sinful to observe Christmas or Easter.

But subsequently belief was established that even religion, which has the very highest appeal to human emotions, required some recognition of surroundings in order that man's soul might be satisfied, so more and more the Protestant Church restored those instrumentalities, which, through the eye and ear, help to instill devotion.

The remarkable growth of the moving picture industry is proof that may not be gainsaid that many permanent impulses of life come though the sense of sight, while proof is not needed of the fact that music is a universal language spoken by every human heart and understood by every soul. We have come to understand that any beautiful thing which we may give to God or any pleasing song which we may sing is not a mark of superstition, but an evidence of the very highest and finest mode of worship.

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If Protestantism can adopt these methods, may there not be something for democracy to consider with reference to the induction of a public official into office? May it not be that with a little more ceremonial to catch the public eye and to impress the truth that office holding is permanent for the period it has been conferred and that ruling even by popular consent is, nevertheless, ruling, there might be a keener appreciation of the fact that authority even in a demorcracy is authority, and as such is entitled to respectful consideration by those who created and conferred it.

I was curious to know who this new peer was and what particular service he had rendered to the British empire that led to his preferment. I was told he was the manufacturer of a popular brand of whisky. Whatever his business, he manifestly had been successful in it and had fought his way to a commanding position in the business world. To me, he well illustrated the difference between American and British thought, touching successful business careers. Great Britain knights a successful business man. America indicts him. In Great Britain, he is incarcerated for life in the House of Lords. In America he is compelled to fight incarceration in the penitentiary. I am not philosopher enough to determine which punishment the better fits the crime. I can only say that justice is sure in Great Britain.

Seeks Fair Play in Elections

PUTTING Marquis of Queensbury rules into politics, injecting a true sportsmanlike spirit into the contests at the polls and establishing by federal fiat the great American principal of fair play in the great American prerogative and privilege of popular elections is the thought behind a proposal in Congress for a new constitutional amendment.

Representative Frederick W. Dallinger of Massachusetts, chairman of the house elections committee, has introduced a resolution which proposes to give Congress "power to regulate the nomination and election of senators and representatives in Congress."

This legislation was prompted by two notable cases, the Newberry case in Michigan, in which the Supreme Court in its decision virtually wiped out the corrupt practices act, and the Harrison case in Virginia, in which the House committee has found that the minority party was not given "a fair chance for its white alley."

In one line the purpose of the Dallinger resolution is "to require certain fundamental principles of fairness in the election laws of the states." There is no intention of having federal officials take complete charge of the elections. It merely looks to having the states themselves pass election laws that will embody the great American principle of "fair play."

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Representative Dallinger expects to press this resolution when the House reassembles after its summer recess to consider ship subsidy and the tariff bill when it comes back from the Senate.

After the Newberry decision Chairman Andrews of the House committee on election of President, Vice President and representatives in Congress was concerned because the corrupt practices act had been discredited. Knowing that Representative Dallinger had made a life study of government and elections and had been a lecturer in government at Harvard, and was recognized as an authoritative author on the subject, he sought counsel with him. The result was that Mr. Dallinger introduced a resolution for a constitutional amendment that Congress "shall have power to regulate all expenditures made or incurred by any person or persons for the purpose of influencing directly or indirectly the nomination or election of any candidate for the office of senator or representative in the Congress of the United States, and to prohibit corrupt practices in connection with any such nomination or election."

This was intended to meet directly the issue raised in the Newberry case and make it clear that Congress has the right to regulate expenditures. But the resolution was referred to the judiciary committee instead of to the Andrews elections committee, and there it still reposes in spite of efforts to have it re-referred, Representative Joseph Walsh of Massachusetts interposing objections to the transfer.

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Then came the contested election case of John Paul against Representative Thomas W. Harrison, the sitting member from the seventh Virginia district. According to the majority report, it was shown that in the naming of registrars or election board or judge of elections the minority party was not allowed to name a representative to see that there was fair balloting and a fair count. The majority claims that the state constitution, which failed to prohibit such an unfair and un-American practice, had never been submitted to a popular vote for approval, and that every judge must take the oath to uphold that particular constitution.

So Representative Dallinger put in his new resolution for a constitutional amendment, designed to "kill two birds with one stone." The author says he is convinced from his life study of elections that when a state like Virginia has no law insuring the minority of a square deal Congress ought to go far enough to require a fair election law which will assure the minority of fair representation.

In this connection it is recalled that back in the nineties Henry Cabot Lodge, then a member of the House, got through what the southerners dubbed "the force bill," which provided for federal officers to conduct federal elections, to see that there was a fair national election. Senator George Frisbie Hoar fathered the bill in the Senate and was beaten by a combination of western free silver republicans and southern democrats.

* * * *

It has always been contended that Congress had power to regulate the national elections, but southerners claimed that the act was unconstitutional. Senators and representatives are now elected under the state laws. Representative Dallinger understands the feeling against having federal officials go to a state and take charge of the election. But he believes that Congress ought to go so far in regard to the election of senators and representatives as to make certain that the minority party will have fair representation.

He gives an interesting illustration, painting a picture of the famous gentlemen from Virginia who settled their differences on dueling fields in the vicinity of the National Capital. He points out that in each instance it was religiously observed as a true sportsman's principle that each party should select his own seconds. There was no chance for an unfair adversary to have blanks put in his opponent's pistol. But under the Virginia law, he emphasizes, there is no provision for the opponent (a minority party man) at the polls to have a representative to see that he gets "fair play."

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Representative Dallinger makes it plain that the proposed amendment to the Constitution would not affect many states at all where there is ample provision made for equal representation of both parties, as in his home state of Massachusetts. In very few states, he says, would the situation arise as it has in Virginia.

Some lawyers contend that a new corrupt practice act, if passed, would probably be sustained by the Supreme Court, in spite of the decision in the Newberry case, where Justice McKenna raised a fine technical point. Representative Dallinger and those supporting his resolution say that Congress might just as well make the matter absolutely certain by an out-and-out amendment which will settle once and for all time its right to regulate elections of members of Congress, so as to require "fair play" and a square deal for all candidates.

Keeping a daughter in clothes isn't always a financial problem.—Binghamton Sun.

A friend is one who knows how worthless you are and doesn't give a darn.—Birmingham News.

It has got so that the life of a European statesman is almost as hazardous as that of a base ball umpire.—Columbia Record.

Anna Dickie Olesen was nominated for United States senator in Minnesota on a campaign expenditure of $500. Many a woman will wonder why she didn't wait for the price to get down to $198.—Toledo Blade.

Heard and Seen

While putting a record on a phonograph the other day the writer was struck with the fact that a point on the circumference of the disc makes seventy-eight revolutions a minute exactly the same as any point in nearer to the center.

In other words, while a point two inches, say, from the center is going around a certain number of inches, a point on the outer edge is going around a greatly increased number of inches in exactly the same time.

Supposin' the disc were increased to a diameter of a mile—some record!—and the speed of this huge disc still maintained at seventy-eight revolutions a minute, how fast would a given point on the edge be going?

Not being a mathematician, I leave this pretty problem to the bureau of standards, naval observatory or any one of the scores of statistical branches of the government service.

It ought to be easy to work out for a person whose inclinations run that way.

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If one doesn't happen to "be mathematical," being in classification indiscrimately branded as "literary," it is astounding to remark the ease with which some people can add up tremendous columns of figures or tear the heart out of a difficult "problem" before it has a chance to escape.

There is Maj. Dan Donovan, the District auditor.

He can take a row of figures ten feet long in his left hand, poise a pencil in his right hand and spin down the columns one after the other, adding them up "just like that."

Now if you haven't got the "knack" you could camp on the trail of such an array of numerals until you got nervous prostration and still not be able to take oath as to the accuracy of the final result.

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A non-mathematical gentleman was talking to a couple of Civil Service Commission experts about recent changes made in some of Uncle Sam's tests for entrance into the service.

In general clerical tests, to be given for the first time this month, the tremendous old "puzzlers" are to be eliminated, and in their stead forty brief questions in practical arithmetic given candidates.

All the old questions about "if it takes ninety yards of carpet to cover a hexagonal floor forty feet by sixty feet, how many yards of silk will it take to make a dress for a woman six feet tall," etc., are given the go-by.

"We are going to substitute something brief, something practical, something 'snappy,' if you want to use that term," the expert said, with pardonable pride.

"See here—look at this little problem," and he read one off the new list.

"You can do that, can't you?" he continued.

The listener gave the problem the "once over." It was brief, it ought to have been easy enough and he ought to have been able to work it off-hand, perhaps, but——

"Sure!" he replied.

We are all like that.

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But to get back to the phonographs.

These instruments have been much maligned. The average person is apt to say something disparaging about "jazz," and make out as if he were used to listening to nothing except the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

As a matter of fact, the same average person perhaps hasn't the slightest idea in the world what he means when he speaks of "jazz music."

Have you?

Do you mean the music, or the way it is played?

Many people, listening to a good fox-trot tune on a phonograph, brand it as "jazz," when there is nothing "jazzy" about it in the world.

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One word in defense of the fox-trot tune.

If Mozart could come back and hear a good fox-trot, with its snappy rhythm and general spirit of motion and life, he would like it.

So would Mendelssohn.

As for "Papa Haydn," he would clap his great hands, swing with the tune, and then go put some of the new effects into a symphony. In some of the symphonies left to us by this old modernist, by the way, are to be found some keen fox trots, although they weren't called by that name then.

Surely, the man who took a native delight in placing a sudden loud chord in the middle of a soft movement, as Haydn did in his "Surprise Symphony," would not fail to appreciate the tricks of the modern saxophone.

CHARLES E. TRACEWELL.

Fifty Years Ago in The Star

Libraries on Sunday.

The demand for the opening of libraries and such other places of public use on Sundays was made fifty years ago, though it was not until long afterward that it was generally granted, though some advance had been effected. In The Star of June 24, 1872, is a short editorial on this subject:

"The Boston papers are disgusted with the course of Mayor Gaston, who has vetoed the bill opening the public library on Sundays. The plan of opening libraries on Sunday for the use of the public has worked so well in other cities that the papers urged the councils to pass the bill over the mayor's veto. It is strange that religious people fail to see that the library is the greatest auxiliary to the preacher for the proper observance of the Sabbath that can be secured, keeping young people away from vicious haunts on that day. We hope to see the day when the Congress Library, the Christian Association Library and other libraries will be thrown open to the public on Sunday. Mr. Spofford, the thoughtful and thoroughly informed head of the Congress Library, favors, if we mistake not, the opening of that library to the public, not only on evenings, but on Sundays, and would doubtless give his intelligent co-operation in any movement to provide such a means of attracting young men from the pernicious modes of killing time on Sunday now prevailing. This would serve to attract those who will not or do not go to church; but in order that the plan should harmonize with churchgoing, the libraries might be opened on Sunday afternoons after the main church service of the day has been concluded."

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Insanitary Conditions.

Though some advance had been made fifty years ago in the matter of city cleanliness all was not satisfactory to Washingtonians who took a pride in the capital as attested by the following in The Star of June 25, 1872:

"Without agreeing to all the censure given to the board of health, it must be conceded that they show a hesitancy in dealing with notorious nuisances like the manure nuisance on the river front that does not argue well for their usefulness. It was hoped when the board was created by Congress that, deriving its powers from that body, it would be able to act independently of local influences. It was fondly hoped that the sway of the voting pig owners, cow dealers, manure gatherers and other nuisance creators was over. But the board seems to expend all its energies in everlasting talk, and while they debate as to what they may, can or must do, disease is gaining a foothold and our doctors have already their hands full, as is too well known. From the very nature of the case, what is needed on the part of the board of health is action, not talk. Let them abate nuisances and then discuss their power to do so afterwards. When the long winter evenings come they can talk ad libitum."

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New Railroad Line Ready.

Announcement in The Star of June 27 1872, that the Baltimore and Potomac railroad would be opened for travel the following week marked completion of a work in which the people of the District had taken keen interest, owing to the prospect it afforded of relief from the monopoly of transportation enjoyed by the Baltimore and Ohio for years. The Baltimore connections were not complete, and for a time it would be necessary for passengers traveling north to go by street cars from a temporary depot on Townsend street to connect with other lines of travel, pending the completion of the tunnel.

The work of construction was started in 1868, and had been pressed steadily for four years. About the last thing done in preparation for the opening was the testing of the bridges on the line from Odenton to Washington. "Three large engines with an aggregate weight of over ninety tons," according to the news story, were run over these bridges, which stood the test. The length of the line was thirty-seven miles, with nineteen stopping points between Washington and Baltimore. The rolling stock ready for the opening consisted of eighteen first-class and five baggage cars and five four-wheel Baldwin locomotives.

DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS

A Revision of the Versailles Treaty.

PARIS. — Writing in La Victoire, Gustave Herve, its editor, says:

"Just as the Frankfort treaty engendered the war of 1914, so the Versailles treaty will fatally engender a new European catastrophe. Poland is condemned to a fourth dismemberment unless we bring about a revision of the Versailles treaty to put an end definitely to the century-old animosity between Germany and France.

"It need hardly be said that such a revision would necessitate sacrifices on both sides and an immense effort of common sense, honesty and humanity. I believe that the French national block, because it is essentially a republican block and that it represents some of the most noble traditions of French idealism, is not incapable of this effort; in Germany the socialist majority party, the democratic and the Catholic parties—that is to say, the three parties whose coalition has until now saved the republic on the other side of the Rhine—are perhaps also capable of understanding that this would be a means of rehabilitating their country in the eyes of universal democracy.

"What could republican France offer republican Germany without abandoning any of her essential rights or principles?

"1. The immediate union of the six million Germans of Austria with the German republic, who are just as much Germans as the Poles of Posen are Polish, and as this union of former Austrian territory might offend the Czechs or the Italians from a military point of view, who would see in this rearrangement of territory Germany coming too near their borders, Austria, although united to Germany, might be militarily neutralized.

"2. The evacuation of the occupied zone by the allied troops after a modification of the status of the Rhine district.

"3. The restitution to Germany of the Saar region after a rectification of frontier which would give us the Saar districts which belonged to France in 1789 and in 1814, and which were taken from the French in 1815, it being understood that the exploitation of the Saar mines would profit France until the restoration of our mines in the north was completed.

"4. The restitution to Germany with Poland's consent, of the old free town of Dantzig, where the Poles would only keep a free port and a narrow zone on the coast between Dantzig and Prussian Pomerania.

"5. Suppression of the most favored nation clause in favor of France in the Versailles treaty and establishment of commercial relations on equal footing between the two nations.

"6. Restitution to Germany of the part of Togo and Cameroun placed under French mandate.

"7. Immediate admission of Germany, presented by Poland and France, into the league of nations, and simultaneous limitation of all armaments as soon as Russian conditions would allow it.

"On the other hand, what could we demand from the German republic?

"1. The solemn repudiation of the German imperial government as being principally responsible for the world war and the stigmatization of the violation of Belgian neutrality.

"2. That she should recognize as the basis of European justice, the principle of self-determination; that she should admit the legitimity of the Polish resurrection, of the restitution after plebescite of the Polish part of Upper Silesia, and the justice of returning Slesvig to Denmark and Alsace-Lorraine to France.

"3. That she should admit her duty to repair to the limit of her power the ruins which imperial Germany had caused, it being understood that in case of the debts interallied being annulled or reduced, the debt of German reparations should be reduced in proportion.

"4. That the Rhine provinces, on the right and on the left bank, should be formed into an autonomous state, militarily neutralized, but belonging to the German republic, the evacuation of occupied territory should take place immediately after the meeting of the first Rhineland parliament.

"5. That she should give up the Russo-German treaty and promise to guarantee Poland and Rumania against all unprovoked aggression by bolshevist Russia.

"This seems to me to be a reasonable basis for a peace treaty between France, Poland and Germany, which in time would do away with the animosity which centuries of war have accumulated between our two nations. Why should not the men of good faith which exist in our two countries try this revision of the Versailles treaty at a time when on both sides of the Rhine the remembrance of the horrors of war is still present in everybody's mind?

"I feel sure that even Clemenceau, confronted with the danger which threatens Poland and the still greater danger to entire civilization caused by the bolshevists, would accept, if he were in power, a modification of his Versailles work which would put France so high in the esteem of England, the United States and the rest of humanity."

Duke to Sell 60,000 Acres.

LONDON.—The Duke of Richmond and Gordon is to sell his Huntly estates in Aberdeenshire, extending over 60,000 acres, according to the Evening News.

He is retaining his estates in Banffshire and Morayshire.

The property to be sold includes fully 350 excellent farms and the crofts and fens of Huntly town.

The estates passed to the present duke in 1903.

The reason given for the Huntly sale is the heavy rates and taxes and other burdens.